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A

Faithful Warning,

To all those who Profess the

Light of Christ

To be their GUIDE;

AND YET

Walk contrary to it.

By George Bowles.

Jer. 3. 22. *Return ye backsliding Children, and I will heal your Backslidings,* &c.
Chap. 4. 1. *If thou wilt return, O Israel, saith the Lord, return unto me,* &c.

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A *Faithful Warning*,

To all thoſe who Profeſs the Light of Chriſt, *&c.*

DREADFUL is that Day which will overtake *the workers of Iniquity*: For I have ſeen the Fierce Anger of the *Lord* ready to break forth upon the Diſobedient Children; who Profeſs the bleſſed Truth, and yet Live in *Pride*, *Voluptuouſneſs*, *Covetouſneſs*, and *Sin*. O how is my Heart pained within me! In a ſenſe of the many Provocations, wherewith ſuch provoke the Lord to Diſpleaſure,

and draw down ſwift Deſtruction upon themſelves: And how are the Mouths of many open'd againſt the Truth, and our Holy Profeſſion reproached; becauſe of your corrupt Ways, and ſinful Practices? And how are the Souls of the Righteous grieved, becauſe of the *Abominations* which many Run into? ſurely the Lord will plead becauſe of theſe Things; and his Righteous Soul will be avenged of ſuch Rebellious Ones: Yea, with *Fire* and with *Sword* will he Plead with ſuch; and in the Day of his Dreadful Pleadings, ye ſhall not find a Place to hide your ſelves from his Fierce Wrath, which burns againſt the Rebellious Ones. O! therefore let me prevail with you, to break off

your Sins by Repentance, and Amendment of Life. *Ceaſe to do Evil, learn to do Well: Put away the Evil of your doings from before mine Eyes, ſaith the Lord,* Iſai. Chap. 1. that you may be *waſhed from your Filthineſs*; for the Lord will have a *Clean People*: Therefore, *Let him that names the Name of the Lord, depart from Iniquity*: But alas! How many are taking his Name in vain, who Profeſs the Truth, and yet live in Error! But let ſuch know, that *the Lord will not hold them Guiltleſs, who take his Name in vain.*

O! that your Minds were turned unto the Lord, who tryeth the Ways of the Children of Men, and will aſſuredly, *bring every Work to Judgment, with*

every ſecret Thing:) Then would you ſee cauſe to *bemoan* your ſelves like *Ephraim*, and with him, in a Senſe of your Iniquity, cry unto the Lord, and ſay as he did, under his correcting Hand, *Thou haſt chaſtiſed me, and I was chaſtiſed, as a Bullock unaccuſtomed to the Yoak: Turn thou me, and I ſhall be turned: For thou art the Lord my God. Surely, after that I was turned, I repented, and after I was inſtructed, I ſmote upon my Thigh; I was aſhamed, yea even confounded, becauſe I did bear the Reproach of my Youth*, Jer. 31. 18, 19.

Now conſider this, ye *Careleſs Ones*, who neglect the Day of your Viſitation, and ſlight Conviction; and do not take heed to the *Light of Chriſt*, which diſ-

covers

covers Sin and leads out of it, when obey'd; but ye have turned your Backs upon it, and refuſed the Ways thereof, and walk not in the *Path of the Juſt*, (which is a ſtrait Path;) but have choſen to your ſelves crooked Paths, Paths which are not good; walking in the way of the wicked, which is *Darkneſs*. And whilſt you continue there, ſporting your ſelves in the Luſt and Vanities of the World, which the Call of God is out of, ye can never know true Peace with him. The Lord calls out of, and from the Love of the World, and of thoſe things which are therein; as *the Luſt of the Eye*; *the Luſt of the Fleſh*, *and the Pride of Life*: But alas! How are many neglecting the Heavenly Call

and

and indulging themſelves in the Practice of theſe things, and bring not their Necks under the Yoak of Chriſt, nor learn of him, and therefore cannot partake of that *Peace* which he gives to his Obedient Ones.

My Soul Mourns for you, and my Spirit is in Heavineſs many Times, in a deep Senſe of that deplorable State which you are fallen into, by reaſon of your repeated Rebellions againſt the Light. And a Concern is upon me, in the Love of Chriſt, that you might yet be brought to a true Senſe of your Backſlidings, and turn to the Lord, with *Ephraim*, as above: And that the Lord might yet be pleaſed to ſhew Mercy to you, in blotting out

out your Iniquities, and receive you Graciouſly.

And, O that a deep Senſe of the *Long Suffering* and *Patience* of the Merciful God, which hath long waited the return of many, may yet take hold of you: And that your Hearts may yet be deeply affected, in a true ſenſe of your own *Backſlidings*, and his unſpeakable *Mercies*, which would lead you to ſincere Repentance: For ſurely the Lord waiteth to be Gracious, and taketh not *delight in the Death of Sinners; but rather that they ſhould return and Live.*

Therefore, O ye *Careleſs* Sons and Daughters, ye who have been *Prodigals*, and ſpent your Portions; let me prevail with you, in the Bowels of tender

Love

Love, to *return* to the *Father's House*; from whence you have *wandered* in a wanton, loose, and unsubjected Mind: And if in Truth and Sincerity, you yet desire in your Hearts to *return*, the Father (who is not wanting, but ready to help *returning Prodigals*) will not fail the truly Penitent; but will bring them on in their Travel, home unto his House, see *Luke* 15. 11. to 25.

And, O! that all concerned, may weightily consider the Blessed Doctrine of the Holy Cross, as delivered by the blessed Jesus, who said, *If any Man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his Cross daily and follow me.*—— *For what is a Man profited, if he gain the whole*

whole World, and loſe his own Soul: Or what ſhall a Man give in exchange for his Soul: For the Son of Man ſhall come in the Glory of his Father with his Holy Angels: And then he ſhall reward every Man according to his Works, Mat. 16. 24. 26, 27. Luke 9. 23.

Therefore to Day, *whilſt it is called to Day*, (*i. e.*) whilſt the Light of Chriſt ſhines on you, and the Lord ſtrives with you by his Holy Spirit; *If ye will hear his Voice, harden not your Hearts*: But, as ſaith the Holy Prophet, *Seek ye the Lord while he may be found; call ye upon him while he is near. Let the wicked forſake his Way, and the unrighteous Man his Thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord; and he will have Mercy upon him, and to*

Our

Our God, for he will abundantly Pardon, Isai. 55. 6, 7. Which, that you may obtain, through the Mercy and Forgiveneſs of God, by a timely Repentance, and Amendment of Life; is the ſincere Deſire, and fervent Breathing of One of *Sion*'s Mourners, who Travels in his Meaſure, for the Redemption of Her Children,

George Bowles.

The 2d Month,
1710.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

FINIS.